

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Terrence J. Maya

2008-CR-0914(A)

**Killer Pleads Guilty;
Sentenced to Life in Prison without Parole**

Terrence J. Maya, formerly of New Orleans, Louisiana, pleaded guilty in the murder of Lee L. Kost. As part of the plea, Maya admitted to numerous facts detailing his involvement in the murder. Maya was sentenced to life in prison without a chance of parole. His defense attorney stated that Maya decided to plead guilty and take responsibility for his act. His co-defendants, had previously pled guilty and agreed to testify against him at trial.

Murder was the plan from the beginning when Maya and three accomplices conspired to rob Mr. Kost. After the murder, Maya and the others fled toward Cleveland in Kost's 2007 Jaguar. The Brecksville Police stopped them for speeding and found the murder gun and other evidence in the case.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Marquez D. Coe

2008-CR-1843

Teen Convicted of Pistol-Whipping 3 People

Seventeen year old Marquez D. Coe was convicted by a jury of participating in criminal gang, aggravated burglary, three counts of aggravated robbery, three counts of felonious assault and having weapons while under disability. He was sentenced to fifteen years in prison. Coe broke into a home on Second Street N.E., in Canton, and pistol-whipped a teenager and a couple in their sixties. Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero commended his two Assistant Prosecutors Michael Bickis and Aaron Howell for putting this criminal in jail. Ferrero said, "It is of utmost importance that we as citizens of the county remain safe in our homes."

Coe did not take the stand. During the sentence phase of the trial Coe's defense counsel asked the Judge to consider Coe's age and sentence given to his co-defendants. The prosecutor's objected telling the judge, "This is the worst nightmare for anyone!"

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Stephen R. Moles

2008-CR-2157

Child Molester Pleads Guilty: Sentenced to Life in Prison

Stephen R. Moles, 40, of 1440 Ohio Avenue N.E., Canton, pled guilty to three counts of rape and five counts of gross sexual imposition. He was sentenced to life in prison. He will be 65 years of age before he is eligible for parole. The Judge further ordered he spend every Thanksgiving and Christmas in solitary confinement. Moles molested the children from a period in 1996 to September of 2008.

Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero said, "It is extremely important that we protect our children. This conviction will hopefully send a message that molesting of children will not be tolerated."

The sexual abuse went on for years. "This was pretty severe in terms of the type of sex acts that were perpetrated on those children," said Assistant Prosecutor Katie Chawla.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Darnell Goodgame

2008-CR-1249

Killer Admits Killing Retired Canton Police Officer

Earl E. Schoeneman and Darnell Goodgame were neighbors. Schoeneman was a seventy-six year old retired police officer. Goodgame was a drug addict and felon who lived with relatives near Schoeneman. Goodgame stabbed and shot Schoeneman to death to obtain drug money. Goodgame, 48, pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated murder, aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and other various specifications. He will spend the rest of his life in prison.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Nicholas D. Shoup

2009-CR-0130

Sex Offender Gets 20 Years in Children's Rape Case

Nicholas D. Shoup, 43 of Canton, who molested two young relatives was sentenced to twenty years in prison. He will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He pled guilty to four counts of rape, two counts of gross sexual imposition and a misdemeanor count of sexual imposition.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Robert Thompson

2009-CR-0119

Robber Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison

Robert Thompson, 38, of 1404 - 42nd Street N.W., Canton, pleaded guilty to eight counts of aggravated robbery, ten counts of kidnapping and three counts of robbery. He said, "I am sorry for my actions." In committing the robberies, he was usually armed with a knife and on occasion would tie up the clerks before leaving the store. In another incident he barricaded employees in a cooler. Thompson pulled an Airsoft gun on clerks also. Fortunately, no victims were injured. He was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Brandon C. Patterson

2009-CR-0136

Twenty Years in Prison for a Canton Man

Twenty-two year old Brandon C. Patterson will spend twenty years in prison. A jury found Patterson guilty of attempted murder and two counts of felonious assault with gun specifications. County prosecutors said Patterson intended to kill eighteen year old Arthur Alston at a party at 700 block of Shorb Avenue N.W., Canton. Alston was paralyzed from the chest down. After the shooting Patterson skipped to Texas. He was returned two months later.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. James Mammone, III

2009-CR-0859

Triple Murder Suspect Indicted - Faces Death Penalty

James Mammone, III, was indicted by the Stark County Grand Jury charging him with three counts of Aggravated Murder. Each Aggravated Murder count carries two specifications that allow the jury to consider the death penalty if he is convicted. He further faces two counts of Aggravated Burglary, three Firearm Specifications, one count of Violating a Protection Order and one count of Attempted Arson.

Mammone planned and carried out to kill his two children and mother-in-law. Police say he shot 57-year-old Margaret J. Eakin killing her and fatally stabbing his two children, ages five and three. Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero said of the direct indictment, "By taking the case directly to the Grand Jury we avoided Thursday's preliminary hearing in municipal court." Ferrero further said, "Because of the evidence the police obtained and the direct indictment, the case will go to trial quicker and save prosecution costs. We will be seeking the death penalty in this case."

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Edward C. Martino, III

2009-CR-0891

Second Indicted Triple Murder Suspect to Face Death Penalty

Edward C. Martino, III, was directly indicted by the Stark County Grand Jury. He was charged with three counts of aggravated murder, one count of attempted aggravated murder, one count of having weapons while under disability and one count of improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle. The indictment was filed in the Stark County Common Pleas Court, by Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero's Office, on June 18, 2009.

Police say that Martino, 24, of Canton Township shot the three people outside the White Crown Café in Canton. The indictment stated that Martino fired from inside his motor vehicle and acted with prior calculation and design in killing Melissa L. Pinney, 31, Jonathon Pierce, 32, and De'Andre Ruffin, 22. Another passenger, a fifteen-year-old girl, was not shot. Prosecutor Ferrero said, "Each aggravated murder charge carries a death penalty specification. We are seeking the death penalty in this case."

Martino left Canton after the killings, but FBI Agents captured him in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on May 29 by tracking his cell phone calls. He was apprehended without incident inside a train destined for Los Angeles, California.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Gina M. Williamson

2009-CR-0455(B)

Sex Offender goes to Prison

A woman, from Texas, was found guilty after she pled to complicity to the illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material or performance. She was sentenced to four years in prison and must register as a sex offender for twenty-five years. Gina M. Williamson, 19, allowed her fifty year old boyfriend to engage in sexual conduct with a minor girl. The minor is related to Williamson. Williamson's boyfriend, Rodney J. Skuca, is serving seven years in prison after pleading guilty to unlawful sexual conduct and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance.

County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero commented that, "it is important that we protect minors from illegal acts of adults."

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Bobby Lee Cutts, Jr.

2007-CR-1098(A)

Cutts Stays in Prison - 5th District Affirms Conviction

In a 2-1 decision, the 5th District Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction and life sentence of former Canton Police Officer Bobby Lee Cutts, Jr. Cutts was convicted in February, 2008, of the death of his girlfriend Jessie M. Davis and her unborn child Chloe. He was sentenced to life in prison and is not eligible for parole until he serves 57 years.

Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero said, "I am happy with the 5th District's decision and I commend Chief Criminal Prosecutor Dennis Barr, Assistant Chief Criminal Prosecutor Chryssa Hartnett and Appellate Section Assistant Prosecutor R. Mark Caldwell for doing an admirable job in prosecuting Mr. Cutts." "It is important that people be accountable for their acts," Ferrero also said.

Cutts contended that he accidentally hit Davis in the throat with his elbow when she tried to stop him from leaving her home. Cutts said he was unable to resuscitate Davis and panicked and got rid of her body in a vacant field. The jury did not recommend the death penalty but convicted him of all charges including aggravated murder. The appeals court agreed that Cutts's conviction was supported by substantial evidence.

Cutts's defense attorneys said Cutts plans to appeal the appellate court's decision to the Supreme Court of Ohio. An appeal to the Supreme Court is discretionary.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Brian Alexander Gloss

2009-CR-0265

Robber Sentenced to 22 Years

Brian Alexander Gloss, 32, of Canton, Ohio was sentenced to twenty-two years in prison for his involvement in a string of check cashing store robberies. The jury convicted Gloss of six felony robbery charges. In addition, Gloss did not contest charges that he was a repeat violent offender. His admission resulted in more prison time. Gloss's previous convictions for aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary led to the repeat violent offender specifications.

The state charged that Gloss robbed check cashing stores in Jackson Township, Hartville and Canton. He also attempted to steal a lady's purse in the parking lot of Wal-Mart on Tuscarawas Street in Canton.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Scott W. Turner

2009-CR-0884

**Man Sentenced to Three Years in Prison
for Molesting a Neighbor**

Scott W. Turner was sentenced to three years in prison on a single count of gross sexual imposition when he pled guilty to molesting a boy living in his neighborhood. Judge Taryn L. Heath also ordered Turner to register as a sex offender for the next twenty-five years. The evidence showed that Turner, 41, fondled the young boy.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. DeShawn Lamonz Bethune

2009-CR-1042(B)

DeShawn Bethune Indicted for Aggravated Murder

The Stark County Grand Jury has indicted DeShawn Lamonz Bethune, 35, of Canton for Aggravated Murder with a Firearm Specification. His uncle, Andre Lydell Bethune, 50, with no permanent address is charged with Complicity to Aggravated Murder with a Firearm Specification.

These indictments do not include a death penalty specification. If convicted, the men will face maximum sentences of life in prison without parole. DeShawn Bethune is represented by Defense Attorney Frank Beane. DeShawn Bethune is accused of shooting Matthew Copeland, age 30, during an argument over a woman. The woman is the mother of DeShawn's child. DeShawn's first gunshot at Copeland did not fire. He then jumped into a gold Cadillac driven by his uncle and both left the scene. When they returned a short time later, DeShawn fired a second shot that missed Copeland and then a third that struck him above the right ear. He died at Aultman Hospital four days after the shooting.

Having fled to Virginia following the shooting, DeShawn later returned to Massillon to visit relatives. He was arrested about one block from Massillon City Hall.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Thomas M. Lewers

2009-CR-0001

Lewers Convicted for Killing His Wife's Lover

Jury Says Life in Prison without Parole

Thomas Lewers, Jr., 38, of Massillon, was convicted of Aggravated Murder, Murder and Aggravated Burglary in the December, 2008 shooting. He shot to death Jeffrey Cole of Perry Township. The jury sentenced Lewers to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Lewers faced the prospect of being sentenced to death but the jury found that he should spend the rest of his life in prison. He will never be eligible for parole. The jury deliberated parts of two days in handing down the sentence. The evidence showed Cole died after being shot multiple times on December 23, 2008, in his Perry Township home. Prosecutors were able to convince the jury that Lewers was motivated by jealousy over his wife having an affair with Cole. The Cole family said they were not advocates of the death penalty so they feel justice was served. The Cole family said that with the trial now over, the process of healing can begin. Chief Criminal Prosecutor Dennis Barr said he was satisfied with the jury verdict. Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero said, "Regardless of how angry one gets we cannot allow people to take the law into their own hands."

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. William D. Perry

2008-CR-2062

Perry gets Life in Prison without Parole for Beheading Neighbor

William D. Perry will serve life in prison without the possibility of parole for killing and beheading his neighbor Brett W. Smith. Perry was convicted by a three judge panel in the Stark County Common Pleas Court. William D. Perry pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated murder with death penalty specifications, aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, gross abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence. By agreement when he pled to the charges, he gave up his right of appeal. Judges V. Lee Sinclair, John G. Haas and Charles E. Brown, Jr., accepted the life imprisonment agreement.

Four days after Smith's death, Perry was arrested for vandalism. A grand jury later indicted him on the charge to which he pled. North Canton Police had some evidence incriminating Perry in the murder of Brett W. Smith. The evidence was not that strong. The police obtained two trash bags stuffed in an air duct of a North Canton home. Perry tried to destroy the evidence of his neighbors killing. The police later found evidence in Perry's trailer which tied him to the killing.

Perry's trailer and Smith's trailer sat end to end in Evergreen Mobile Home Park in North Canton. The men had a tumultuous relationship. On October 3, 2008, the men had an altercation in Smith's trailer. Perry beat Smith and strangled him to death. Perry then severed Smith's head and tried to burn it in Smith's oven. He cut off Smith's fingers and thumbs and wrapped his neighbor's body in plastic. He then attempted a cover up the murder by pouring blue and white paint all over the trailer. He stole money from Smith's wallet. Smith's mother found his body the next evening with a knife stuck in his chest.

Further investigation by the North Canton Police found Perry's silver bracelet in Smith's trailer. The North Canton Police were convinced that Perry committed the crime. But Det. John Minock indicated he needed more evidence to convince others that Perry was the culprit. The police were convinced of Perry's involvement when an acquaintance of Perry's found trash bags in a heat duct at a home Perry once occupied and still had access to. In one bag there was a sock matching the one found outside Perry's trailer.

Certain phone calls and letters written by Perry were very convincing evidence. Chief Criminal Prosecutor Dennis E. Barr said, "Perry will never walk the streets of Canton or any other town again."

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. DeShawn Lamonz Bethune

2009-CR-1042(B)

DeShawn Bethune Convicted and Sentenced to Life in Prison

DeShawn Lamonz Bethune will spend the rest of his life in prison without parole. He was convicted of Aggravated Murder with a Firearm Specification on October 15, 2009 in the brutal killing of 30 year old Matthew Copeland of Massillon. County Prosecutors stated DeShawn went to kill Copeland and was therefore guilty of Aggravated Murder with a Firearm Specification. Defense Counsel Frank Beane sought a conviction on a lesser charge. Andre Lydell Bethune, DeShawn's uncle, testified against his nephew. He was sentenced to eighteen years in prison.

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero stated, "He respected the decision of the jury." Assistant County Prosecutor Kristen Mlinar requested Judge Lee Sinclair give the maximum sentence. She noted DeShawn Bethune had several felony convictions involving guns.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Edward S. Asper

2009-CR-0534

Ex-Attorney Sentenced

Former Perry Township Attorney Edward S. Asper was sentenced to 112 days in jail for defrauding clients out of thousands of dollars. Stark County Common Pleas Judge Charles Brown placed Asper on probation and ordered him to make restitution to the victims. Asper pled guilty, last August, to grand theft. He was alleged to have stolen money from clients for work he never performed.

Asper surrendered his law license in September, 2008, after formal complaints were filed with the Ohio Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline. His office was located in Perry Township. Asper was a former Assistant Carroll County Prosecutor. Various clients paid Asper money for work he did not perform.

Asper rejected an offer by the Massillon City Prosecutor's when Municipal Court Judge Edward Elum said he would have final say on whether Asper went to jail. The case was bound over to the Stark County Grand Jury which indicted him.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

Supreme Court of Ohio v. Bobby Lee Cutts, Jr.

2009-1600

**The Supreme Court of Ohio Won't Hear the
Cutts' Appeal**

Former Police Officer Remains Jailed

The Supreme Court of Ohio refused to hear the appeal of former Canton Officer Bobby Lee Cutts, Jr.

A Stark County Jury convicted Cutts in February, 2008, of the deaths of his girlfriend Jessie M. Davis and her unborn child Chloe. After the conviction, Cutts was sentenced to life in prison. He is not eligible for parole until after he serves 57 years.

The local Fifth District Court of Appeals, by a two to one decision, upheld the conviction. The evidence showed Cutts strangled Jesse M. Davis and dumped her body in an open field in Summit County. Cutts claimed he accidentally hit Davis in the throat killing her. Further, according to the evidence, Cutts had another child with Davis.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Robert Melvin Hollabaugh, Jr.

2009-CR-1527(B)

Jury Convicts Hollabaugh of Aggravated Robbery

A Stark County Jury took less than an hour to convict Robert Melvin Hollabaugh, Jr., 21, of Canton, Ohio, for the Aggravated Robbery with a Firearm Specification of a sixty-nine year old man. Hollabaugh, along with an accomplice, Richard Louis Cook, robbed the man as he parked his car in a handicapped spot at the Fraternal Order of Eagles on Atlantic Boulevard N.E., Canton. Hollabaugh and Cook demanded money at gunpoint. They got about \$25.00. Neither Hollabaugh nor Cook testified at the trial. Judge John G. Haas sentenced Hollabaugh to ten years in prison.

Cook pled guilty to the Aggravated Robbery charge with Firearm Specification and is serving seven years in prison.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Brian Robert Jones

State v. Elaine Mary Jones

2009-CR-1565(A & B)

Siblings Indicted for Defrauding Perry Business Owner

A brother and sister accused of defrauding a Perry Township restaurant has been indicted by the Stark County Grand Jury. Brian Robert Jones, 49, of Jackson Township and his sister Elaine Mary Jones, 52, of Canton are charged with one count each of Money Laundering, Grand Theft and Forgery. Elaine Jones is also charged with Identity Theft. The indicted siblings allegedly forged documents in order to obtain bank loans. Court records indicate the siblings used a forged notarized letter that indicated they owned stock in Angelo's Restaurant to secure a twenty thousand dollar loan.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Maki Gamayn Ragland

2009-CR-1028(B)

Ragland Convicted in Two Year Old Child's Murder

It took only three hours by a Stark County Jury to convict Maki Gamayn Ragland, 20, in the death of two year old Harmony Sankey. Ragland will be sentenced later. Ragland attempted to rob Sankey's grandfather. He pistol-whipped the grandfather and shot him in the leg. The bullet passed through the grandfather's thigh and struck Harmony, killing her. Assistant Stark County Prosecutors Frederic Scott and Lewis Guarnieri, after the verdict, thanked the jury for their attentiveness in hearing all the evidence and testimony. The jury found Ragland guilty of Murder, Aggravated Burglary, Felonious Assault and four counts of Aggravated Robbery. Each of the counts carried a Firearm Specification. Ragland had a past criminal history of a conviction for Cocaine Possession which precluded him from carrying a gun.

Co-defendant William Hiram Ferguson identified Ragland as being the shooter. Defense Counsel April Bible questioned the thoughtfulness of Ferguson.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Maki Gamayn Ragland

2009-CR-1028(B)

Ragland Sentenced to Life in Prison for the Murder of Two Year Old Harmony Sankey

Twenty year old Maki Gamayn Ragland was convicted on December 18, 2009, in the killing of two year old Harmony Sankey during an attempted robbery. He will serve fifty-eight years in prison before he can be paroled. Judge Frank Forchione handed down the sentence for the murder. Ragland wanted to rob Sankey's grandfather. In a week long trial a jury found Ragland guilty of murder. Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero complimented his Assistant Prosecutors Frederic Scott and Lewis Guarnieri for a job well done. He also said he was impressed in the way the jury weighed the evidence in rendering a just verdict. He further stated, he was satisfied in the sentence imposed by Judge Forchione.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jay Lewis Biggs

2008-CA-00285

Jay Lewis Biggs Remains Locked Up

In May of 2008, the Stark County Grand Jury indicted Jay Lewis Biggs on two counts of Aggravated Murder with Death Penalty Specifications, two counts of Murder, one count of Rape and one count of Endangering Children. The charges arose from the death of Biggs' four month old daughter. The jury found Biggs guilty as charged and recommended that he serve a term of life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Biggs filed an appeal to the Fifth District Court of Appeals.

Biggs said the trial court's finding of guilty was against the manifest weight of the evidence and not supported by the evidence.

The court of appeals unanimously denied Biggs' appeal based on the evidence and testimony of Stark County Coroner P.S.S. Murthy, M.D., Deputy Stark County Coroner Anthony Bertin and Summit County Chief Medical Examiner Lisa Kohler, M.D.

Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero stated that he was elated with the verdict of the jury and would continue to prosecute child abuse cases to the furthest extent of the law.